

FEMA Denton MOC Team as the Region 6 Watch, 940-898-5280

FEMA REGION 6 SPOT REPORT #3: Explosion with HAZMAT Release – TX
CIR: Any event in the Region receiving wide media coverage (local or national) likely resulting in a DHS or White House request for information.

Incident Description: An initial report of an explosion at an oil refinery in Jefferson County, TX was received. A subsequent chemical release resulted in a shelter-in-place order.

Time of Incident: 0100 CT 27 Nov 2019
1730 CT 27 Nov 2019

Sources:

- TX SOC
- NOAA (WFO Lake Charles, LA)
- Open Source
- DOE Eagle-I
- FEMA-NWC

Current Situation:

- An explosion at the TPC Group Refinery – City of Port Neches (Jefferson County, TX) precipitated a release of Butadiene, which prompted a shelter-in-place order by the Orange County judge (with suggested evacuation) for up to a mile radius around the incident until 0600 CT. Jefferson County has also issued a shelter-in-place order for the City of Groves and a portion of Port Arthur due to a shift in winds and plume modeling. A mandatory evacuation order is in effect for those residing within a ½ mile of the facility.
- **IMAAC DEACTIVATION: Standing Down for refinery explosion in Port Neches, TX**

Key points since last update:

- Clarification of chemicals involved; Raffinate and Butadiene, other chemicals at the facility include C4 (not the explosives) and crude oil
- Explosion originated in a processing unit, cause unknown
- Three tanks have collapsed
- Texas State Environmental Monitors have not recorded any elevated levels of chemicals
- Fire is going to be allowed to burn out while being monitored (to prevent further vapor cloud ignition)
- Mandatory evacuations for the ½ mile radius remain, additional evacuations have been ordered for parts of Jefferson and Orange counties
- Eight minor injuries reported
- Neches River and Sabine-Neches Waterway are closed near the fire (no appreciable short-term impact to shipping)

- Highway 366 closed in the immediate area

Impacts:

Transportation:	No Reports
Food, Water, Sheltering:	1 shelter open (1 st Baptist Church – Nederland, TX)
Energy (Power & Fuel):	1545 (Statewide) 1799
Health & Medical:	No fatalities reported; 3 injuries at this time. 8 minor injuries reported
Safety & Security:	Structural damages (windows and doors)
Communication:	No Reports
Hazardous Waste:	No Reports

State/Local Response:

- TX SOC is at Normal Operations

FEMA Response:

- R6 RRCC: Not Activated
- R6 RWC: Normal Operations
- No request for FEMA assistance
- **FEMA R6 IMAT-1:** PMC due to vacancies
- **FEMA R6 IMAT-2:** Reconstituting through 30 Nov 2019

Denton MOC will continue to monitor and report further developments as warranted.



